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Prior reference to Central Government in regard to the issue of passports to foreign countries.

* 60 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN (on behalf of Sri V. Gurunandan Row): Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the issue of passports is a matter within the State Government's powers or whether there are any rules or instructions for prior reference to the Central Government in regard to the issue of passports to various foreign countries?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" 'Passports' is a subject enumerated in the Union list; but the function of issuing passports has been delegated to the State Government. This Government exercise the function as an agency of the Central Government in accordance with the instructions issued by the Central Government from time to time."

Prevention of inconvenience to the travelling public during Ministerial tours.

* 61 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN (on behalf of Sri V. Gurunandan Row): Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of policemen deputed in railway stations on the Madras-Salem route during his recent visit to Salem and return to Madras;

(b) whether policemen posted in Salem Junction Railway Station prevented travellers from entering the bogie carriage to be attached to the Cochin Express, till he had arrived and entered his compartment; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent any inconvenience to the travelling public during Ministerial tours?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (a) I am sorry, Sir, the answer is longish. I am told that the following police guards were provided at Salem Junction, Bommidi, Tiruppattur, Karuppur and Danishpet railway stations during my visit on the 20th April 1952, to Salem:—

Two Sub-Inspectors, four Head Constables and twenty-seven Constables at Salem Junction Railway Station.

One Head Constable and four Constables at Bommidi Railway Station.

Two Constables at Tiruppattur Railway Station.

One Constable each at Karuppur and Danishpet Railway Stations.

These arrangements were necessary mostly to preserve order and afford convenience to the travelling public owing to the press of sightseers and admirers.

" (b) The answer is in the negative. Sri Mohan Kumaramangalam and many others were in the bogie carriage before I even reached the station and so nobody could have been

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prevented by the police from entering the compartment at Salem Junction Railway Station. After I was in my compartment word was sent to me that there was some exchange of conversation between Mr. Kumaramangalam and the Police officials and I sent word to allay feelings and I heard nothing more about it.

" (c) The question does not arise, as no inconvenience or no more than unavoidable inconvenience is caused to the travelling public during Ministerial tours."

Rural Water-supply Scheme.

* 62 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the total expenditure on rural water-supply during each of the last three years;

(b) the agency employed for execution of rural water-supply works, with details of technical staff available for the same; and

(c) whether there has been any proposal to transfer the execution of these works to the Divisional Engineers (Highways)?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) The total expenditure incurred during the last three years on rural water-supply is as follows:—

Year.	Expenditure.
	RS.
1949–50	55,19,946
1950–51	82,22,739
1951–52	88,29,560

" (b) The Collectors are in charge of the execution. They let out the works on contract. The work of the Collectors is supervised by the Board of Revenue. The estimates for the Rural Water Supply Works are prepared by the Minor Irrigation Overseers and scrutinized by the Minor Irrigation Supervisors. The following technical staffs are employed for the execution of Rural Water Supply Scheme by the Board of Revenue:—

Minor Irrigation Supervisors	25
Minor Irrigation Overseers	175
Rural Sub-Overseers	23
Clerk Draughtsmen	24

" (c) The answer is in the negative."